

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification of the present application as set forth in the marked-up specification paragraphs below.

In the paragraph on page 7, lines 15-27:

In some preferred embodiments, the empty disc case receptacle 30 is a magazine shaped to gather and orient the cases 12. The ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30 preferably has a shape similar to a silhouette of the cases 12. Preferably, the magazine is tall enough to hold a number of cases, such as at least fifty cases (a common number in which cases are sold). The ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30 is preferably gravity fed, with the cases 12 exiting through the bottom thereof. However, other feed systems are possible, such as a vertical lift system, wherein cases enter the feed path from above or below the ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30. For example, the ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30 can be located above the conveyor 16 for dropping disc cases 12 onto the conveyor 16 or for permitting discs to be pulled from the ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30 by the conveyor 16, can be located beneath the conveyor 16 for lifting disc cases 12 (under force from one or more springs, actuators, or other biasing or driving elements) through an aperture 18 in the conveyor 16, can be located beside and below the conveyor 16 for lifting disc cases 12 in a similar manner to a position where they can be laterally ejected to the conveyor 16 by an ejector mechanism, and the like.

In the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 28 and ending on page 8, line 10:

Another possible location and orientation for the empty disc case receptacle 30 is shown in FIG. 1. In this embodiment, the empty disc case receptacle 30 is not located above the conveyor 16. This embodiment uses a second conveyor 24 to deliver the disc cases 12 from the ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30 to the conveyor 16. Preferably, this second conveyor 24 is a piston or solenoid- operated ejector that pushes a case 12 out of the ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30 through an opening large

enough for a single disc case 12 to pass through. The second conveyor 24 in FIGS. 1-6 is illustrated as a carriage that is driven in a reciprocating manner toward and away from the wedge 23 by a piston or solenoid (not shown) connected to the carriage. The ~~ejector~~ second conveyor 24 preferably pushes the case 12 until it is on the conveyor 16. In some highly preferred embodiments such as that shown in FIGS. 1-7, the disc case 12 cannot be seated or otherwise is not fully received upon the conveyor 16 until it contacts an inclined opening surface 41 (described in greater detail below). Although the illustrated preferred embodiment uses an ejector, any conventional conveyor as discussed in relation to the conveyor 16 that is capable of moving cases 12 toward the inclined surface 41 and forcing the cases 12 against the inclined surface 41 can be used.

In the paragraph on page 8, lines 16-28:

In some preferred embodiments, the inclined surface 41 is a surface of a wedge 23 defined by a plate, block, box, or other element, wherein the inclined surface 41 faces generally in a direction toward cases 12 approaching from the ~~magazine~~ empty disc case receptacle 30. In other words, such wedge-shaped elements preferably have a surface 41 that is inclined at an acute angle away from the approaching cases 12. Alternatively, the wedge 23 can be defined by one or more rods, bars, plates, or fingers providing a surface or a collective inclined surface upon which the case 12 can be pressed to open the case 12. The wedge 23 can be constructed from sheets of material (e.g., sheet metal, fiberglass or plastic plates, etc.), from wire or bar stock, can be injection-molded, stamped, pressed, or extruded, can be assembled from multiple elements connected together in any conventional manner, and the like. The wedge 23 and the inclined surface 41 thereof are preferably made of a material of sufficient strength so that they are resistant to wear and will not warp, bend, or break during operation. Such materials include metal, plastic, wood, ceramic, and composites.

In the paragraph on page 14, lines 14-27:

In one preferred embodiment, a vertical disc feeding device 54 is used within the supply receptacle 53 to supply the discs 15 to a position at which the arm 51 (or other disc manipulation device) can grasp and transport the discs 15, or at which the discs 15 can otherwise be moved or ejected to the cases 12. If a disc insertion device such as the arm 51 described above is used in conjunction with the disc receptacle 53 to deliver the discs 15 to the feed path, the disc insertion device 51 can be timed or otherwise triggered to operate responsive to motion or position of the conveyor 16, the driver driving the conveyor, or any other moving element of the machine (e.g., another feeding device 71 for feeding business cards or other material 74 as described below, the ~~seal wheels~~ closing member 61 as also described below, the ~~ejector~~ second conveyor 24, an indexer if one is used to drive the conveyor ~~17~~ 16, etc.). In some embodiments, the disc insertion device 51 can be triggered to load discs into the open cases 12 by one or more sensors, such as mechanical trip sensors, optical sensors, weight sensors, and the like. In still other embodiments, the disc insertion device 51 can be triggered by a controller that operates part or all mechanisms of the apparatus 10 in a timed fashion.

In the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 25 and ending on page 16, line 2:

After all items have been placed in the case 12, the case 12 preferably proceeds to a closing station 60 where a closing member 61 moves the lid 14 of the case 12 toward the housing portion 13 to close the case 12. The closing member 61 can take many forms such as a stamp, roll, guide rail, or wedge past or beneath which the cases 12 are moved by the conveyor 16, or actuatable devices such as one or more solenoids, motor-driven arms or fingers, pneumatic or hydraulic cylinders, and the like. Regardless of structure, the closing member 61 functions to move the lid 14 to a closed position as the case 12 passes by it or is otherwise located in the closing station 60. In the illustrated preferred embodiment, a ~~roll~~ closing member 61 is rotatably supported about a pivot to roll upon the lid 14 of the case 12 in order to close the case 12 as described above.